



Havoc in the Alps



Periodical Avalanches Involve Forests, Villages and Mountain Railways in Common Destruction

(Special Correspondence.)

The avalanche season is at its height in Switzerland, says a correspondent writing from Geneva. From all directions come tales of death and wholesale destruction wrought by enormous falls of melting snow, broken ice and torrents of half-frozen muddy debris, containing huge blocks of stone, whole trunks of trees and solid masses of serac and glacier.

The damage already done is immense. Within the past few weeks many forests, villages and mountain railways have been swept away, buried or destroyed. Avalanches have a curious knack of falling on the same ground year after year, and avalanche breakers are often built to protect surrounding life and property as far as possible. In many places avalanche breakers in the form of triangular stone walls have been erected to protect whole villages. There is a breaker of this sort at Frauenkirch, near Davos, where the wall of the church is so constructed that, should an avalanche sweep down upon it, the solid, pointed, plough-like edge of the wall would cut and divide the avalanche and turn it harmlessly aside. Rough timber fences, small zigzag stone walls, and even rows of stakes across steep slopes are used by the Swiss peasants as protections.

The compact snow avalanches, which form in the natural depressions and basins on the steep glacier slopes, high up on the mountains, are, by the time that they reach the valleys, composed of stones, earth, huge masses of roots and trees, all held together by the heavy, half-frozen, muddy snow in which they are encased. A mountaineer who was overtaken by an avalanche of this kind on the Splügen, though he escaped from death, had his coat so firmly frozen into the icy mass that he was stuck like a gnat to a fly-paper and could not release himself until assistance arrived.

Avalanche of 1828

Often the frozen bodies of chamols have been found quite fit for food in the remains of old avalanches that

Gletschhorn glaciers, was early in July the scene of an immense fall of snow and rock owing to the bursting of a glacier lake on the Bodmer. But, unlike the terrible Simplon avalanche of 1901, this fall, happily, did not cost any human life, though a party of peasants saw their cattle dashed to death, and were only just able to save themselves in time. The cause of this fall was the formation of a huge lake on the glacier.

As the heat of summer increased, the rapidly melting snow filled this icy Alpine reservoir to repletion, and suddenly, on July 3d, without an instant's warning, it burst its frozen barriers, and in a few seconds discharged thousands of tons of water, ice and snow into the valley below, destroying everything in its way, and never stopping until it reached the Krumbach Gorge, into which it plunged, and in an incredibly short time completely filled it up. In June a somewhat similar fall swept down upon the St. Gothard line between Lucerne and Goldau, stopping all traffic and doing a great deal of damage. No lives were lost by this mishap, but a signal man's house, which was luckily empty at the time, was swept away.

The "Eislawinen."

Scarcely less dangerous than the spring avalanches, or "grundlawinen," caused by melting snow or the bursting of glacier lakes and reservoirs, are the wonderful ice avalanches, or "eislawinen," which are among the wonders and perils of the Jungfrau, the Matterhorn, the Pic Bernina, and many other famous glacier-clad mountains. These marvelous falls of glittering, gleaming ice consist of thousands of tons of shattered, twisted seracs, or ice needles, which have fallen from the glaciers and been precipitated down the mountain by the heat of the sun and the action of the weaner.

These huge falls or cataracts of ice are a terrible danger for the climber who rashly ventures without a guide into their vicinity after sunrise. Not long ago a party of Zermatt climbers



The Staubach.

have fallen many years previously. One of the most famous Swiss avalanches, and one which only falls in very snowy seasons, is the Schwaben-tobellawine. In 1888 this avalanche fell near Glarus-Davos, destroying life and property and carrying all before it. The mass was estimated to be over 700,000 cubic feet in bulk, while the tunnel which was afterward cut through it to allow the traffic to pass along the valley road was over 300 feet long and 12 feet high.

The Simplon, always noted for the serious avalanches falling from the

went without guides to admire the seracs of the famous Z'mutt glacier. As they slowly moved away they heard behind them a mighty roar like that of the discharge of heavy artillery, which was fiercely echoed and re-echoed by a thousand crags and peaks. Looking back, they saw countless tons of ice in huge blocks and mighty, splintered columns fall on the very spot where a few moments before they had all been standing.

Nine athletic young members of the Ski Club, mostly Englishmen, while making an excursion from Lucerne in

March, were caught in a bad snow avalanche. One of the party, a Swiss, was hurled over a precipice and killed outright, while the others, after being rolled in the snowy mass for many hundreds of feet, miraculously escaped with only minor scratches and bruises.

Some Recent Disasters.

One huge snowslide on the Jura mountains buried seven children, of whom two were killed; while an avalanche at Lovrana carried away the roof and upper floor of the village inn. A Dutch student named Rijkens, from the Federal College, while glissading down a steep snow slope at Susten in June, started an avalanche which carried him away and flung him into a rocky torrent, where his body was found with the skull fractured and



A Mountain Church.

both arms broken; while within the last fortnight three fatal as well as any number of less serious accidents have occurred owing to avalanches of various sorts.

Only a few days ago the well-known Russian author, Leykow, almost lost his life. With three friends he was endeavoring to scale the highest peak of the Provanella group. He was struck on the head by a large stone, and fell from his foothold, dragging his companions with him. They all fell a considerable distance, but, owing to great good luck, none except Leykow was really seriously injured. An avalanche of stones was also the cause of the death of Prof. Alois Kimmeler, who a few days ago was found dying at the foot of a precipice between Hoc'tor and Johnsbach, in the Austrian Alps. He had been lying in agony, half buried by heavy stones, for seventy-two hours, and died almost as help arrived.

Feared Left-Handed Shave.

"I said my prayers this morning for the first time in several moons," said the sporty looking man. "I was then brought into that devout frame of mind by a left-handed barber. He shaved me. I had had left-handed people do everything else to me like shining my shoes, brushing my clothes and even cheating me at cards, but never before had I seen one of the left-handed fraternity manipulate the razor. The fellow scared me half to death. He saw that I was afraid of him."

"It's all right," he assured me, "I know my business."

"And he did. Nevertheless, I don't want to try him again. The strain is too hard on my nerves. Every time he whisked the razor around anywhere near the jugular vein I prepared to yield up the ghost. However, nothing happened except that he finished me off looking more beautiful than I ever looked in my life. But for all that, I'd rather peg along with only my ordinary share of good looks than to experience another such a set of thrills at his hands."

Comments by the Shah.

The Shah of Persia says that the French seem to have saltpeter in their veins, the British beer and the Japanese camphorated whinotose.

GREAT SONG WRITER.

Paul Dresser, the Popular Composer, Cured by Doan's Kidney Pills.

Paul Dresser of New York, author of "Banks of the Wabash" and many other great song hits writes:



Gentlemen: I wish to recommend Doan's Kidney Pills, in the hope that my endorsement will be read by some of the many thousands of sufferers from kidney complaint. I was so wretched from this malady that I could not sleep, rest nor eat, and had a weak and aching back. Doan's Kidney Pills effectually cured me, and I wish that others may know.

(Signed) PAUL DRESSER.
Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box.
Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Big Shipment of Horses.

The Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Illinois Central and New York Central roads are preparing to take across the continent the largest shipment of blooded horses ever made from San Francisco to New York. The horses are to be shipped on November 19th, next, from J. H. Haggins' famous Rancho Del Paso, which is to be sold in small tracts for farming purposes. The shipment will require four trains of twelve cars each, and they are to be run on passenger train time. The railroads will get for this shipment \$42,500 in freight charges.

Great Slaughter of Ducks.

Every duck hunter who went out to the lakes Sunday came home with as many ducks as he could safely carry under the law. The slaughter was one of the greatest known in the history of the state, as the weather was ideal for hunting and the game was plentiful in all parts. One inquisitive hunter, who had his own bag well filled, counted over 800 ducks at the station at Barr, when the crowd was waiting for the train. This did not include the kill made by the members of the Hot Air Club, who came in by a later train, or of those secured by the men who shot Upper Barr lake. The latter usually go to their blinds in automobiles, returning the same way. A safe estimate of the number killed about the Barr lakes is therefore about 1,100. As this is only one of the many places to which the Denver hunters went, some idea may be secured of the number of duck dinners enjoyed in this city yesterday.—Denver Republican.

THE SECRET OF YOUTH.

De Soto looked for the secret of youth in a spring of gushing, life-giving waters, which he was sure he would find in the New World. Alchemists and sages (thousands of them), have spent their lives in quest for it, but it is only found by those happy people who can digest and assimilate the right food which keeps the physical body perfect that peace and comfort are the sure results.

A remarkable man of 94 says: "For many long years I suffered more or less with chronic costiveness and painful indigestion. This condition made life a great burden to me, as you may well imagine."

"Two years ago I began to use Grape-Nuts as food, and am thankful that I did. It has been a blessing to me in every way. I first noticed that it had restored my digestion. This was a great gain but was nothing to compare in importance with the fact that in a short time my bowels were restored to free and normal action."

"The cure seemed to be complete; for two years I have had none of the old trouble. I use the Grape-Nuts food every morning for breakfast and frequently eat nothing else. The use has made me comfortable and happy, and although I will be 94 years old next fall, I have become strong and supple again, erect in figure and can walk with anybody and enjoy it." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. "There's a reason."

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in every pkg.